

January 9, 2008

Via Electronic Filing

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission  
455 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Universal Service (CC Docket No. 96-45); DA 07-4719  
Triangle Communication System, Inc. Petition for FCC  
Agreement to Redefine the Study Areas of Two Rural Telephone  
Companies in Montana

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

I am contacting you on a matter that is vital to rural Montana. It concerns a pending proceeding before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Triangle Communication System, Inc. (TCS), a small, rural wireless telecommunications provider based in rural Montana, has requested redefinition of certain telephone company service areas, so that it may implement its plans to deploy wireless communications throughout its 800 MHz licensed area. The telephone exchanges falling within that FCC licensed area are Dodson, Harlem, Malta, Chester, Chinook, Hays, South Malta, South Malta (N), Turner and Whitewater.

My family lives and works in the Landusky/Hays area on the edge of the Missouri River Breaks. The county seat, Malta, is 70 miles away. My children and I reside in Malta during the school year so our children may attend high school. Our little rural school of Landusky, which has been in operation since 1895, is in a three year shut down phase as there are no longer any students, due to the declining jobs.

Thanks to Triangle Communications System for wanting to extend wireless communications in this area. There is very little cell phone coverage in this area due to terrain. This raises a safety issue for residents and travelers alike. A lot of hunters are in this area for the fall seasons and have no access to cell phone service if needed. If someone were to get hurt or have vehicle problems it is a long walk out. An elderly man died over New Years

because he had vehicle trouble and was walking toward a cabin for shelter. If there had been cell phone service, surely he would have been rescued. Anyone traveling in the Landusky/Hayes area needs cell phone coverage. I have two kids who will soon be teenage drivers, I sure would like to be able to reach them if necessary, especially during winter driving seasons.

It would also be a real benefit to have wireless internet service. The advances of modern technology mandate that even ranch families need to be globally involved. Our internet speed at our ranch home is 44.0 on dialup. Our neighbor is 14.0 on dialup. The future of our ranching lifestyle demands the economic capabilities of use of the Internet as well as anyone else in the Landusky/Hays area. People want to live here but it is hard to make a living monetarily. I applaud Triangle for wanting to be of a help to people in this area.

I urge you to concur with the Montana Public Service Commission.

Sincerely,

Bill and Ruth Mitchell  
4787 Mitchell Road  
Dodson, MT 59524